



## 8.0 MIDWEST/EDGERTON AND ASSOCIATED OILFIELDS



### 8.1 Area Description

Number of Points: 144

Number of Structures: 345

BLM Ownership: 5,762 acres (3 Parcels)

The management unit is home to the Salt Creek Oilfield, one of the oldest oilfields in Wyoming. The field is currently operated by Howell Petroleum and consists of over 300 active wells, over 100 discontinued wells, a field headquarters, a shop, a gas plant, and 5 oil-water separation LACT plants.

The towns of Midwest and Edgerton are surrounded by BLM lands. There are numerous roads going to each pump jack with power lines above. Grass and weeds are intensively managed around each well through cultural and chemical management. Highway 387 separates Midwest and Edgerton. The vegetation in the area is bunchgrass, Wyoming big



sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis*), and greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*). Salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) is invasive along the creeks and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) is found in varying concentrations along the roads and in some riparian areas.

Historically, there are about three grass fires annually in the area, all less than an acre in size. The local work crews get to the fires quickly and use 30-pound extinguishers for suppression. The local volunteer fire department aids in suppression efforts. Only one fire in the last five years has reached a considerable size (10 acres). The various roads provide ample fire breaks in the grass/brush model as well as frequent grazing and low precipitation.

### 8.1.1 Management Recommendations

1. *Light fuel management.* Implement seasonal cutting of grass within 100 feet of Midwest and Edgerton in June and September. Thin shrub concentrations to 10 foot spacing within the same perimeter. Continue the practice of cutting and herbicide treatment around well sites. Continue grazing patterns in the oil field to keep light fuels low.
2. *Shrub management.* Reduce concentrations of greasewood by herbicide treatment or the use of prescribed broadcast burning in the drainages. Utilize existing roads as fire breaks.
3. *Noxious Weed Management.* Coordinated weed management among the BLM, the Shepperson Ranch, and Howell Petroleum is suggested. Spotted knapweed, star thistle, and salt cedar are the primary species of concern.

## 8.2 Midwest/Edgerton Hazard Assessment Rating

<u>Total Rating Score</u>	<u>Hazard Level</u>	<u>Amount (%)</u>
1-14	Low	4
15-21	Moderate	87
21-28	High	9
29-35	Extreme	0